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HUNTER FAMILY RECORDS.

An Account of the First American Settlers and Colonial Families of the Name of Hunter, and Other Genealogical and Historical Data, Mostly New and Original Material, Including Early Wills and Marriages Heretofore Unpublished

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By

WILLIAM M. CLEMENS

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HUNTER FAMILY RECORDS.

CONTAINING

Royal Descent of the Hunter Family.
Scotch and English Forebears.
Early Arrivals in Virginia.
Emigrants to New England.
Massachusetts Colonists.
New York Families of Early Days.
Early New York Marriages.
Presbyterian Church Records.
New York Hunters in the Revolution.
New York State Wills.
Early Marriages in Virginia.
Virginia Abstracts of Wills.
The Hunters in Congress.
Nancy Hunter of Kentucky.
Pennsylvania Muster Rolls.

THE HUNTER FAMILY.

The Hunter family is of royal descent from King Edward I, of England, through his second son, Edmund, Earl of Kent, whose daughter, Lady Joan Plantagenet, was the wife of Thomas, Lord Holland. Her great-great-granddaughter, Princess Jane Stuart, became the wife of George Gordon, second Earl of Huntly and Lord Chancellor. Their daughter, Lady Isabel Gordon, was married to William Hay, third Earl of Erroll. Their great-grandson, Andrew Hay, became the seventh Earl. By his wife, Lady Agnes Sinclair, daughter of the fourth Earl of Caithness, he had a son, Hon. Sir George Hay, of Killour, who married Elizabette, daughter of Sir Patrick Cheyne, of Esselmont. Their daughter, Anne, became the wife of William Moray of Abercairney, who died in 1642. Their son, Robert Moray, was knighted by Charles I. His daughter, Anne, married David Graham, of Fintry, ninth in descent from Sir William Graham of Kincardine and the Lady, Mary Stuart. Their daughter, Amelia Graham, became the wife of Alexander Hunter, of Blackness, County Forfar, in 1741.

Burke's "Landed Gentry" states that "two ancient families of the name of Hunter existed in Scotland for many centuries." These were the Hunters of Tweeddale, now extinct, and the Hunters of Hunterston, who owned the present estates as early as the time of Alexander II, King of Scotland. In 1375 William Hunter obtained a charter from King Robert II, for a part of the Barony of Amele. These lands are now known as Campbellton, and are still possessed by the family. Dr. John Hunter, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was a member of the family of Hunterston.

Andrew Hunter, of County Londonderry, Ireland, was born in 1640, and it was the family tradition that his birthplace was the ancestral home of the Hunters of Hunterston in Scotland. His son, Hugh, married Isabella Semple, and their son, David Hunter, lived in York county, Pennsylvania. He married Martha McIlhenny in 1745. He was a captain of a York county Company in the French and Indian War, and a member of the expedition against Fort Duquesne. Capt. Hunter mysteriously disappeared in the summer of 1776, and his family never saw or heard from him again. His fate was not known until nearly a century afterward, when, on the destruction of an old house in the Valley of Virginia by Union soldiers, a paper was discovered concerning him.

It was given to his great-grandson, Captain David Hunter Strother, and was found to be a writ of habeas corpus, issued in the name of "George III Rex," by authority of the Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, directing the sheriff of Berkeley county to bring the body of David Hunter to the capitol at Williamsburg. Captain Hunter was a patriot, and Lord Dunmore, last of the English Governors of Virginia, was notorious for his cruelties and injustice to the colonists.

Captain David Hunter bore the arms of the family of Calderwood, Scotland, "Vert, three dogs of the chase courant argent collared or; on a chief of the second as many hunting horns of the first, stringed gules. *Crest:* A greyhound sejant argent collared or *Motto: Cursum perficio.*"

The descendants of this line of the family are distinguished in the annals of Virginia, and allied with the Washington, Dandridge, Spottswood, and many other historic families.

The following is the ship record of another of the name of Hunter, who immigrated to Virginia, June 6, 1635:

"Vj * Junij 1635.

"Theis vnder-written names are to be transported to Virginia imbarqued in the *Thomas & John* Richard Lambard Mr: being examined by

the Minister de Gravesend concerning their conformitie to the orders & discipline of the Church of England: And tooke the oathe of Allegeance. ..... yeres .....Francis Hunter .....19"

On "A list of the names of the Dead in Virgna since Aprill last," is the name, recorded February 16, 1623, as of the tract called the "Colledge," of John Hunter, among the killed.

The name of Thomas Hunter appears on "A list of the Burialles in Elizabeth City, 1624."

Among early immigrants to New England were four of the name, as shown by the following ship record:

"These under written names are to be transported to N. England imbarqued in the *Blessing* from the Ministers & Justices of their conformitie in Religion & that they are no subsedymen.

"Christian Hunter.....20
"Eliz. Hunter.....18
"Tho. Hunter.....14
"Wm. Hunter.....11"

John Hunter was in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1644. He died in 1648 or '49.

Robert Hunter, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, was a freeman October 7, 1640. His wife, Mary, was mentioned in his will, dated 1647, but no children.

Another Robert Hunter, of Ipswich, had several children. Thomas, the eldest, died in 1687. It is believed that Thomas Hunter, of Marblehead, 1653, was his son.

Another Thomas was in Springfield, in 1678.

William Hunter, of Boston, married, first, in 1657, Cicely ——? She probably died soon afterward. His second wife was Mary, only child of Richard Carter. By her he had children. Savage, in his "Genealogical Dictionary," says that the four young passengers of the ship *Blessing,* the record of whose sailing appears above, may have been children of this William, sent to join him in New England.

William Hunter, of Springfield, had sons, James and John, killed by Indians, July 4, 1676.

Another William was in Barnstable at an early date.

Edward Hunter, of Marlboro, was born in 1716, and died there in 1797. He was a member of the General Court, 1776-7. His son, Jonathan Hunter, was born in Marlboro in 1753. He married Hannah Walkup, of Sudbury, Massachusetts. They removed to Plattsburg, New York. Their son, Solomon, lived in Orwell, Ohio.

Joseph Hunter, of Nantucket, Mass., and Annah

Hawes, of Chatham, Mass., published their marriage intention February 20, 1766. She was born 1738, and was living as Annah Hunter in 1781.

A distinguished member of the family in America included William L. Hunter, who died at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1849, aged seventy-five. He graduated at Brown University in 1791. He was admitted to the Bar, at Newport, at the age of twenty-one. In 1799 he entered the state legislature, and served at various times until 1811, when he became a Senator in Congress, in which office he remained until 1821. In 1834 he was appointed charge to Brazil, and continued there, as minister until 1844, when he returned to Newport, and resided there until his death.

General Alexander Hunter died at Washington, D. C., in 1849, aged fifty- nine. He was marshall of the District of Columbia.

Edmund P. Hunter died at Berkely Springs, Virginia, in 1859. He was a lawyer and member of the legislature.

William Hunter was Assistant Secretary of State. His son, Lieut. H. C. Hunter, of the United States Navy, died at Barcelona, Spain, in 1873.

Revolutionary officers of the name are Alexander, Daniel, Ephraim and James, of Pennsylvania; David, of South Carolina; James, of North

Carolina; Andrew, of New Jersey; Elijah and John, of New York.

Robert Hunter, Colonial Governor of New York, was the son of James Hunter, a lawyer. In early life he was apprenticed to an apothecary. He entered the army, and rose to the rank of Major-General. He was appointed Lieut.-Gov. of Virginia, in 1707, but on his way there was captured by a French privateer and carried back. He was Governor of New York from 1710 to 1719. As the representative of the Crown, he purchased from Robert Livingston, for £400 sterling, a great tract of land in Livingston Manor to provide homestead sites and ground for three thousand Palatines who had been sent to colonize the Hudson Valley by the English government. On the death of the Duke of Portland, he became Governor of Jamaica, where he died in 1734.

George Hunter, one of the earliest residents of New York City, married Ruth, the widow of John Broome, in 1777. Mr. Hunter died in 1799. They had one son, born 4th August, 1788. He was named John Hunter. He resided at 5 State Street for many years, from 1801 to 1812. He was the Hunter of Hunter's Island. He became very distinguished in after years, and was well known to many of the last generation. In a convention

to amend the Constitution of this State, John Hunter was the oldest member present.

Miss Catharine Stewart Hunter, who was born in New York, is a descendant of Capt. Elijah Hunter, of New York. She is a daughter of Dr. Abraham Thew Hunter and Adeline Morrison, his wife; granddaughter of Ezra Hunter and Rachel Thew, his wife; gr.-granddaughter of Elijah Hunter and Anna Drake, his wife. Elijah Hunter, 1775, was lieutenant in Capt. Daniel Mills' company, Col. James Holmes' regiment, and was captain of grenadiers at the Battle of White Plains. He served as a delegate from Westchester county to the Assembly. He was born at New Castle, 1749, and died, 1815, at Mount Pleasant (Sing Sing).

The Brick Presbyterian Church records in New York City are as follows:

HUNTER, ———, son of Charles, bpt. Apr., 1849.

HUNTER, Adelina M., mem. June, 1827, now Cooke, dism. Oct., 1859.

HUNTER, Caroline M. (Miss), mem. Jan., 1903, let.

HUNTER, Caroline M. (Mrs.), mem. Jan., 1903, let., wife of Chas. A.

HUNTER, Charles, mem. Apr., 1829, conf.

HUNTER, Charles, mem. July, 1835, let.

HUNTER, Charles, dism. 1833.
HUNTER, Charles, mem. July, 1835, let. (dead?), retired.
HUNTER, Charles A., mem. Jan., 1903, let.
HUNTER, John Wallace, mar. Ann Eliza Stanton, Jan., 1817.
HUNTER, Robert W., mar. Mary Clifton Harrison, Apr. 17, 1861 (by William J. Hoge).
HUNTER, Sarah H. (Miss), mem. Jan., 1903, let.
HUNTER, Sarah J., mem. July, 1835, wife of Charles, dism. June, 1862.
HUNTER, Sarah J., mem. July, 1860, dism. June, 1862.
HUNTER, Sarah J., mem. Apr., 1829, wife of Charles, conf.
HUNTER, Sarah J., dism. 1833.
HUNTER, Sarah J., mem. July, 1833, let., wife of Charles.
HUNTER, Stephen Vanarden, b. Sept. 23, 1834, bpt. Feb. 20, 1835.

The New York Hunters in the Revolution were as follows:

Andrew Hunter.
Archibald Hunter.
Benjamin Hunter.
David Hunter.
Ebenezer Hunter.
Elijah Hunter.
James Hunter.
John Hunter.
Jonathan Hunter.
Matthew Hunter.
Moses Hunter.
Robert Hunter.

Ezekial Hunter.
Frederick Hunter.
George Hunter.
Samuel Hunter.
Stephen Hunter.
Thomas Hunter.

Two wills of Hunters in New York State are thus recorded.

Will of Alexander Hunter, Homer, Cortland co., N. Y., July 15, 1833.

To son William Hunter.

To son Charles H. Hunter.

To son James Hunter.

To son John Hunter.

To son Alexander Hunter.

To daughter Nancy Hunter.

To daughter Margaret Hunter.

To nieces Diana and Sally, daughters of James Hunter.

Will of John Hunter, of Ulysses, Cayuga co., N. Y., Nov. 3, 1802, July 13, 1803.

Wife Eve; Daughters Mary Warms, Catherine Sager, Jane Vomp.

Elizabeth Vandergrist, Eve Fleming, & my eldest son James.

Sons Johoekem & John, Jr.

Benj. Coykendall & Walter Van Ornam, *Exs.*

Rhoda & Lydia Gardner & Richard Pangburn, Witnesses.

Among the early New York State marriages in the Hunter family were the following:

1765, May 20, Agnes Hunter and Wm. Wallace.

1781, Sept. 25, Anna Hunter and Robert Graham.

1763, Nov. 2, Elenor Hunter and Christopher Sweedland.

1768, Sept. 28, Elijah Hunter and Ann Drake.

1737, June 4, Elizabeth Hunter and John Ward.

1760, Nov. 13, Elizabeth and Wm. Taylor.

1781, Oct. 12, George Hunter and Ann Bennet.

1757, April 12, Jos. Hunter and Mary Burnett.

1769, Feb. 16, Mary Hunter and John Schuyler.

1777, Dec. 16, Rachel Hunter and James Galbreath.

1737, Nov. 19, Rachel Hunter and Edward Smith.

1764, Oct. 9, William Hunter and Elenor McNeil.

Early Virginia marriages of the Hunters were:

HUNTER, Eliza & John Vernon, Sept. 6, 1792, Rockbridge Co., Va.

HUNTER, Isabella & William Hall, Sept. 6, 1792, Rockbridge Co., Va.

HUNTER, Jean & Abraham Case, Sept. 7, 1790, Rockbridge Co., Va.

HUNTER, John & Mary Early, Feb. 5, 1790, Campbell Co., Va.

HUNTER, Mary & David Kingen, Oct. 25, 1792, Rockbridge Co., Va.

HUNTER, Miles & Sally Pritchard, 1788, Dinwiddie Co., Va.

HUNTER, Pamelia & Samuel C. Burks, Oct. 8, 1811, Rockbridge Co., Va.

HUNTER, Peter & Sarah Nowlin, Dec. 17, 1790, Campbell Co., Va.

HUNTER, Robert & Nancy Ellis, 1793, Amherst Co., Va.

Early Virginia wills are recorded as follows:

HUNTER, ALEX'R

Bedford Co., Va. Will filed March 22, 1768.
s. Alexander Hunter.
s. James Hunter.
s. Samuel Hunter.
d. Betty Hunter.

HUNTER, JOHN

Campbell Co., Va. Will filed June 7, 1796.
wife (former husband Jere Early).
s. Benjamin Hunter.
s. John Hunter.
s. Alexander Hunter.
s. Robert Hunter.
s. James Hunter.
d. Elizabeth Hunter.

Israel Dodge, born in Connecticut, September 3, 1760, at adult age moved to Kentucky, where he married Nancy Ann Hunter, born in Carlisle,

Pa., daughter of Joseph Hunter, and wife, Anne Homes, of the Scotch-Irish emigration, which has furnished so many strong men to the nation. They had children, Nancy and Henry.

Nancy Hunter married, second, Asael, son of the brave William Linn, who served with Col. Clark at Kaskaskia, and had a son, Lewis Fields, born November 24, 1793, who served in the U. S. Senate from Missouri 1833-45. She thus furnishes the only instance in this country of a mother with two sons serving the U. S. Senate at the same time, Lewis Fields Linn from Missouri, and his half-brother, Henry Dodge, serving from Wisconsin.

Nancy Dodge (sister of Henry Dodge), daughter of Ann Hunter and Israel Dodge, married in Ste. Genevieve, first, Joseph Conn, and had a son, Joseph H. Conn, a well-known business man of St. Louis, who married Elizabeth Anderson, and had five children, the youngest of whom, Nancy Dodge, married Wm. McLanahan and resides in St. Louis.

The list of Hunters who served in Congress from 1776 to the present day is as follows:

HUNTER, Andrew Jackson, a representative from Illinois, born in Greencastle, Ind., Dec. 17, 1831, died in Paris Ill., Jan. 12, 1913.

HUNTER, John, a representative and a senator from South Carolina, born in South Carolina about 1760.

HUNTER, John Ward, a representative from New York, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1807, died April 16, 1900.

HUNTER, Morton Craig, a representative from Indiana, born in Versailles, Ind., Feb. 5, 1825, died Oct. 25, 1896.

HUNTER, Narsworthy, a delegate from Mississippi Territory, died in Washington, D. C., March 1, 1802.

HUNTER, Robert Mercer Taliaferro, a representative and a senator from Virginia, born in Essex Co., Va., April 21, 1809, died in Essex County, Va., July 18, 1887.

HUNTER, Whiteside Godfrey, a representative from Kentucky, born Dec. 25, 1841.

HUNTER, William, a senator from Rhode Island, born in Newport, R. I., Nov. 26, 1774, died in Newport, R. I., Dec. 3, 1849.

HUNTER, William, a representative from Vermont in 1817.

HUNTER, William Forrest, a representative from Ohio, born in Alexandria, Va., Dec. 10, 1808, died in Woodsfield, Ohio, March 30, 1874.

HUNTER, William H., a representative from Ohio in 1837.

The Pennsylvania Muster Rolls of 1776-1783, contain the following Hunters:

Cyrus Hunter, 1781, Westmoreland Co., ensign.

John Hunter, 1782, Westmoreland, Co., private.
George Hunter, 1782, Bedford Co., private.
John Hunter, 1782, Cumberland Co., private.
Jonathan Hunter, 1781, Philadelphia Co., private.
David Hunter, 1781, Philadelphia Co., private.

GENEALOGY, 45 William Street, New York, reports the following unclaimed Hunter estates:

Hunter, Arthur, Camden, N. J., 1895.
Hunter, Louisa, New York, 1850.
Hunter, Nathaniel W., U. S. Army, 1864.
Hunter, Robert or Hugh, Philadelphia, Pa., 1880.
Hunter, Stuart A., New York.